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S.NO.	TOPIC
1.	PUNE ACCIDENT: MINOR DRIVER'S BAIL CANCELLED, SENT TO OBSERVATION HOME
2.	A VEGETABLE TRIUMVIRATE, INFLATION AND THE TAKEAWAY
3.	GAINS FROM CRITICAL MINERALS DRIVE UNLIKELY BEFORE 2031

PUNE ACCIDENT: MINOR DRIVER'S BAIL CANCELLED, SENT TO OBSERVATION HOME

Pune accident: minor driver's bail cancelled, sent to observation home

Shoumojit Banerjee
PUNE

The Juvenile Justice Board (JJB) on Wednesday cancelled the bail of the 17-year-old, accused of driving the luxury car which had knocked down and killed two persons in Pune's upmarket Kalyani Nagar area on May 19. He has been sent to an observation home till June 5.

Meanwhile, a local court sent the minor's father, Vishal Agarwal – a prominent city-based realtor – to three-day police remand till May 24 along with two employees of the bar which served liquor to the minor and his friends.

The JJB had granted bail to the minor barely 15



Builder Vishal Agarwal, father of the minor accused. PTI

hours after the incident, This had sparked a public outrage and triggered a political slugfest.

The minor was granted bail on a surety of ₹7,500 and an assurance from his grandfather, S.K. Agarwal, to keep him away from "bad company", according

to the order.

Grandfather's role

Meanwhile, it has emerged that Mr. S.K. Agarwal had links with Chhota Rajan. He is currently out on bail in a shootout case for alleged payments to the gangster.

All cases related to Chhota Rajan are being investigated by the CBI, and a special trial court in Mumbai was designated to hear them.

The case of the minor's grandfather is among those being tried alongside that of Chhota Rajan's since 2021.

Maharashtra Deputy CM and Home Minister Devendra Fadnavis assured that any such connections of

the Agarwal family would be probed.

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi posted a video on the incident saying if an ordinary bus, truck, auto, or any Ola and Uber cab driver accidentally killed someone they were sentenced to 10 years in jail.

"But if a 16-17-year-old son of a wealthy family, driving a Porsche under the influence of alcohol is caught, he is asked to write an essay," he added.

Responding to this, Mr. Fadnavis said, "The police have done whatever is necessary in this case. This puerile attempt by Rahul Gandhi to seek votes by bringing in electoral politics into every issue by wrong, I condemn this."

Who Are Juveniles?

- ❖ Juveniles are the person who has not attained the age of majority that means who is below 18 and has committed a crime whether it is heinous or not. They are also known as juvenile offenders or juvenile delinquents. For example, the minimum smoking age in India is 18 and people below that are called minors or underage. The juvenile cases are heard in juvenile court, a type of civil court with different rules than an adult criminal court. However in certain cases, older juveniles can be tried as adults in criminal court.

Points to note from this news

who is a minor/juvenile (Paper II)
what are the laws
Role of Parents (Ethics)



Why Do They Need Justice System?

- ❖ The psychology behind the commitment of crimes are upbringing, lack of education, aggressive nature, dominant masculinity, etc. In late 1960's the government passed an act in the parliament called Children Act of 1960 that aimed to provide care, protection, maintenance, welfare, training, education, and rehabilitation and development of neglected or delinquent children per se.
- ❖ The act was created with a certain set of goals. Its primary purpose was to give boundaries and help for local authorities and/or other entities to better regulate official intervention in the interests of children. But in the light of recent crime events in our country the Indian law maker's hands are forced to make some compelling laws about juveniles as well. As a result, they made the Juvenile Justice Act of 1986, Juvenile Justice Act 2000 then Juvenile Justice Act 2015 and recently Juvenile Justice Act 2021 which was passed by both Lok Sabha as well as Rajya Sabha.
- ❖ We all remember the devastating incident of Nirbhaya Delhi Gang Rape Case which happened on December 16, 2012 which left whole nation on shock. Many questions arised that time and reason of debate was the involvement of accused who was about to get 18. The involvement of minor in such heinous crime forced the law makers to introduce a new law and thus the Indian Parliament came up with a new law which is Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection) Act 2015. The law replaced the old juvenile laws and has introduced some remarkable changes and in which one of the changes was that the age group of 16-18 years should be tried as an adult if the person has done some heinous crime which is unpardonable.

Conclusion

- ❖ Children are the valued assets they need to be tend and protected. We all know that the juvenile offenders are increasing rapidly, and that can be because of lack of education, aggressive nature or etc. The children need to have some basic rights which can help them to have a better future. There are lot of juveniles who are unable to afford a lawyer and these acts help them to enjoy legal remedies. In our Indian Constitution every individual is equal before eyes of law thus everyone has a right to defend or protect itself with the help of law whether it is a plaintiff or a defendant, adult or minor, girl or boy the law never discriminate.

Q. With reference to the legal framework related to juvenile justice in India, consider the following statements:

1. A preliminary assessment, to assess mental and physical capacity of a juvenile, under the Juvenile Justice Act, is not necessary if they are involved in a serious crime.
2. A juvenile who is treated as an adult, if found guilty, can get life imprisonment.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- [A] 1 only
- [B] 2 only
- [C] Both 1 and 2
- [D] Neither 1 nor 2



Answer: B

Notes:

- ❖ **Statement 1 is incorrect:** Section 15 of the Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act of 2015 requires a “preliminary assessment” to be done of the mental and physical capacity of juveniles, aged between 16 and 18, who are involved in serious crimes. The assessment is meant to gauge a child’s ability to understand the consequences of the offence and the circumstances in which he or she allegedly committed the offence.
- ❖ **Statement 2 is correct:** If the Juvenile Justice Board is of the opinion that the juvenile should not be treated as an adult, it would not pass on the case to the children’s court and hear the case itself. In that case, if the child is found guilty, he would be sent to juvenile care for three years. On the other hand, if the Board decides to refer the case to the children’s court for trial as an adult, the juvenile, if guilty, would even face life imprisonment.

Subjective Questions:

- ❖ It is often said that home is the first school and parents are the first teachers. Explain the role of family in inculcating moral values. Analyze how the changing nature of family has affected this role in the context of India. (150 words)

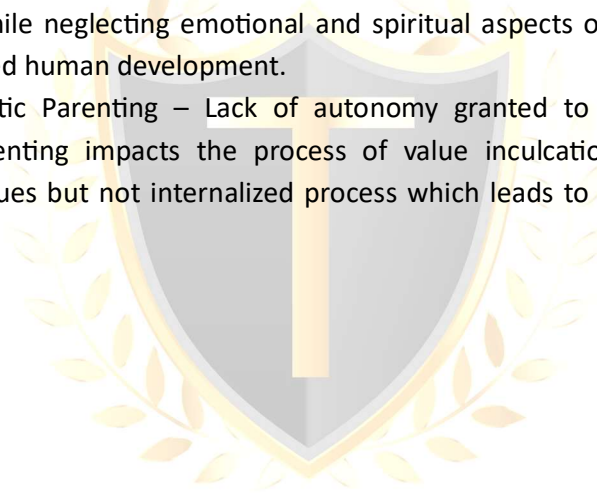
Parents are the primary educators of children who are responsible for providing primary moral education. The parental influences on the psyche of children’s’ moral development play a huge role. Let us understand the process of value inculcation through parental influences;

- ❖ Induction (Initial Experience) – Philosophers often argue that the behaviour of parents is what shapes up the behaviour of children. Thus, parents need to practice what they preach and then preach what they practice.
- ❖ Nurturing and support – Authoritative Parenting is essential in order to foster self-awareness, respect and social sensitivity along with authority and respect for rules.
- ❖ Modelling – This requires the parents to teach their kids by setting an example. For instance, respecting the kids is essential to teach them respect.
- ❖ Enforcement Mechanism – Good behaviour of the child must be rewarded but only with intangible things such as Hugging, Appreciation etc. This will keep him motivated and will help him stick to being at his best behaviour always.
- ❖ Democratic parenting – It helps in the development of cognitive reasoning in the child so he could make reasonable choices at present or in future.
- ❖ Moral lessons – It has long lasting impact on children psyche and also helps in the development of moral reasoning thereby one could differentiate between morally appropriate and inappropriate behaviours. For example, telling stories from Mahabharata, Ramayana etc.
- ❖ Family structure and social influence – In joint family gatherings, child learns the basic family values such as courtesy, respect, mutual care and affection etc.
- ❖ Traditional values – Practice of traditional values by family member is learned by children through observational learning. For example, Honourable treatment given to female members of family inculcates the value of treating women fairly in the child.



Challenges/Limitations:

- ❖ Source of regressive values – Family, being an informal institution is largely a source of regressive values. For examples, In India, Parents teach their kids to be in the company of similar identity (Religion, caste etc.)
- ❖ Conflicting values – Different moral lessons by various family members may lead to conflict in formation of value system. For instance, orthodox in a family will take conservative values whereas democratic will preach liberal values.
- ❖ Pretending Parents – Parents due to various reasons fail to adhere to teaching themselves that they imparted to their kids. Children easily recognizes this hypocrisy and lose faith in the preaching imparted by parents. For example, Parents teach the value of love and care but they themselves fight with their relatives over petty issues.
- ❖ Decline in joint family – Change in Family structure is weakening the process of value inculcation through family. Parents spend very less time with their kids, in addition, rise of technology has significantly decreased the interaction between parent and child.
- ❖ Lack of emotional and spiritual values – In todays' world, parents are imparting value of meritocracy in brute sense while neglecting emotional and spiritual aspects of human development. This has causing unbalanced human development.
- ❖ Lack of Democratic Parenting – Lack of autonomy granted to children due to prevalence of authoritative parenting impacts the process of value inculcation. This leads to only external acceptance of values but not internalized process which leads to the development of weak value framework.





A VEGETABLE TRIUMVIRATE, INFLATION AND THE TAKEAWAY

A vegetable triumvirate, inflation and the takeaway

Inflation is a critical indicator of an economy's health, reflecting the changes in the general price level and the cost of living. In India, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) is used to measure price inflation which is largely based on the Laspeyres's price index and measures the economy's cost of living. The CPI basket comprises 299 items of which vegetables account for a weight of 6.04% in the total basket.

Within vegetables, the three vegetables – tomato, onion, and potato (TOP) – hold a weightage of 2.2% in the overall CPI basket for an average Indian household. The significance of TOP goes beyond its numerical representation. These three commodities have historically played a pivotal role in influencing both food and beverages inflation as well as headline CPI figures. One notable fact is that the TOP group constitutes 3.6% of the total consumption basket in urban areas while it constitutes 5% of the total consumption basket in rural India for the bottom 5% of the consumption classes, respectively, as per the CPI basket classification.



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In FY2023-24, vegetable prices in India soared by about 15% (year-on-year). Vegetable prices have exhibited significant volatility, shifting dramatically from a fall of 0.7% in June to a substantial rise of 37.4% in July. Though vegetables have a weight of only 6% in the total CPI basket, their contribution to inflation was as high as about 30% in February and March 2024. Tomato prices soared by 202% in July 2023 and contributed to 18.1% of the total headline inflation despite the weight of tomatoes being only 0.6% in the CPI basket. During the same month, the contribution of vegetables to headline inflation was a high 31.9%, and of TOP was 17.2%.

Price volatility

One of the striking features of TOP is its price volatility (*chart*). The coefficient of variation (CoV) of inflation is a key measure of volatility. The inflation volatility of TOP has been measured using the coefficient of variation (CoV) for the period January 2015 to March 2024, yielding a value of 5.2. It is significantly higher than the volatility of the vegetables sub-group (CoV=3.0), the food group (CoV=0.6) as well as the volatility of headline inflation (CoV=0.3). This exercise reveals that TOP's CoV surpasses not only the food and headline group but also the vegetables sub-group. This heightened volatility underscores the sensitivity of these commodities to market forces, weather fluctuations, and supply chain dynamics.

The *chart* shows the inflation trend for the three commodities, i.e., tomato, onion and potato, as well as for the constructed TOP group. The inflation rate for the TOP sub-group has remained quite volatile ranging from a minimum

value of -36.6% in September 2021 to 132.0% in December 2019 (The writer's calculation uses data from the National Statistical Office).

Aiding the farmer

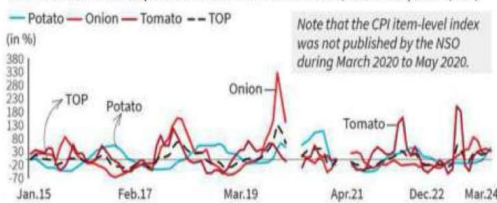
The volatility and importance of TOP in shaping inflation trends highlight the need for effective policy interventions and a nuanced understanding of agricultural supply chains. These are perishable crops and are subject to a number of biotic and abiotic stresses. As these crops do not have Minimum Support Price and are mostly sold to private traders by farmers, this volatility in prices also hurts farmers, the majority of whom are net buyers of these crops. The possible solutions to reduce the volatility of inflation for these crops include an overhauling of agricultural value chains and improvement in the cold storage facilities, better prices for farmers to incentivise the production of the crops, and increased profitability in the cultivation that can be achieved by reducing the exorbitantly high input prices of fertilizers and pesticides used in the production of these crops.

The abrupt changes in lifting the export bans on onion ahead of the Maharashtra elections also show that we are still using short-term measures to deal with the price volatility in these crops as against measures that are demanded by the farmers. The memorable Kisan Long March from Nashik to Mumbai in March 2023 and continuous protests by farmers have time and again raised the demand for Minimum Support Prices for onion. This demand seems to be continually ignored by the government.

The views expressed are personal

Year on year inflation for tomato, onion and potato (January 2015 to March 2024)

The chart indicates sharp movements of inflation in tomato, onion and potato (TOP)



Points to note from this News

- what is Inflation*
- what is CPI*
- Impact of Price volatility of TOP on farmers*
- Solutions*

Definition of Inflation:

- ❖ Inflation refers to the rise in the prices of most goods and services of daily or common use, such as food, clothing, housing, recreation, transport, consumer staples, etc. Inflation measures the average price change in a basket of commodities and services over time.
- ❖ The opposite and rare fall in the price index of this basket of items is called 'deflation'. Inflation is indicative of the decrease in the purchasing power of a unit of a country's currency. This is measured in percentage.



Types of Inflation:

- ❖ There are two types of inflation –
 - ☛ Demand Pull Inflation: Demand pull inflation arises when aggregate demand in the economy becomes more than aggregate supply.
 - ☛ Cost push inflation: when there is decrease in aggregate supply of goods and services results into increase in cost of production.

Indicators used to measure Inflation:

- ❖ In India, inflation is primarily measured by two main indices — WPI (Wholesale Price Index) and CPI (Consumer Price Index), which measure wholesale and retail-level price changes, respectively. The CPI calculates the difference in the price of commodities and services such as food, medical care, education, electronics etc, which Indian consumers buy for use.
- ❖ On the other hand, the goods or services sold by businesses to smaller businesses for selling further is captured by the WPI. In India, both WPI (Wholesale Price Index) and CPI (Consumer Price Index) are used to measure inflation

Q. Consider the following statements (2020-1)

1. The weightage of food in Consumer Price Index (CPI) is higher than that in Wholesale Price Index (WPI).
2. The WPI does not capture changes in the prices of services, which CPI does.
3. Reserve Bank of India has now adopted WPI as its key measure of inflation and to decide on changing the key policy rates.

Which of the statements given- above is/are correct?

- [A] 1 and 2 only
- [B] 2 only
- [C] 3 only 4,
- [D] 1, 2 and 3

Correct Answer is Option (a)

Under the new monetary policy Framework effective since 2016, RBI tries to control inflation at 2-6% of CPI (All India). So, #3 is wrong. Option c and d eliminated. In both (a & b) the options, statement#2 is common so we have to accept #2 as correct, Even without checking. Everything boils down to whether statement#1 is correct or not? Both WPI and CPI are based on Laspeyres formula wherein weightage is assigned to multiple commodities and their prices are tracked. The weight of an individual commodity depends on how frequently it is bought by the consumer. So obviously consumer price index would be giving more weightage to the food products compared to WPI which is aimed at the manufacturers. So, #1 should be correct.



GAINS FROM CRITICAL MINERALS DRIVE UNLIKELY BEFORE 2031

'Gains from critical minerals drive unlikely before 2031'

The Hindu Bureau

NEW DELHI

India's quest to tap domestic reserves of critical minerals may not deliver their full commercial benefits before 2031, rendering the country's manufacturing plans vulnerable to supply shocks for minerals like lithium and cobalt whose global output is controlled by China, rating firm ICRA said on Wednesday.

The lack of critical minerals reserves deemed necessary for India's green energy transition has resulted in 100% import dependence for minerals like

lithium, cobalt, and nickel.

While the government recently began the process to auction 38 blocks of critical minerals, the quality and quantity of lithium resources discovered so far, including those in Jammu and Kashmir (J&K), is inferior to other deposits in key producing regions of the world, ICRA said.

China's dominance

"China dominates the processing and refining of critical minerals, controlling between 65%-100% of the global capacity to make battery grade lithium, cobalt, manganese, and gra-

phite. Hence, critical mineral supply chains remain exposed to supply shocks from key producing/processing regions, which results in elevated price volatility," said Girishkumar Kadam, senior VP and group head, corporate sector ratings at ICRA.

Terming efforts to step up domestic production of critical minerals as crucial for energy security, Mr. Kadam said, "Given the preliminary stage of exploration for most domestic blocks being currently auctioned, associated benefits are unlikely to fully accrue in the current decade."

What are Critical minerals?

Critical minerals are elements that are essential to the functioning of modern societies and economies but face potential supply risks due to geological scarcity, geopolitical issues, or other factors.

Critical minerals are essential to the economic and security interests of nations due to their fundamental role in manufacturing high-tech products, renewable energy technologies, electric vehicles (EVs), defense systems, and various other applications.

The significance of these minerals has increased with the global transition towards clean energy and the growing reliance on technology-driven economies.

Key Critical Minerals and Their Uses:

- ❖ **Lithium, Cobalt, and Nickel:** Essential for lithium-ion batteries used in electric vehicles, portable electronics, and energy storage solutions.
- ❖ **Rare Earth Elements (REEs):** A group of 17 elements used in high-strength magnets, electronics, wind turbines, and military applications. Neodymium and dysprosium, for example, are critical for permanent magnets in motors.
- ❖ **Copper:** Vital for electrical wiring, renewable energy systems, and electric vehicles due to its high electrical conductivity.
- ❖ **Titanium:** Used in aerospace for its strength-to-weight ratio, corrosion resistance, and high-temperature performance.
- ❖ **Platinum Group Metals (PGMs):** Essential for catalytic converters in vehicles, fuel cells, and various electronics.
- ❖ **Graphite:** Critical for the anodes of lithium-ion batteries and its lubricating properties in many industrial applications.



Question:

Q. With reference to 'Critical Minerals' consider the following statements:

1. They are only non-metallic elements.
2. Rare earth elements are critical minerals which are used for making magnets and silicon.
3. India is the second-largest producer of cobalt and is the fourth-largest producer of rare earth minerals in the world.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- [A] 1 and 2 only
- [B] 2 only
- [C] 2 and 3 only
- [D] 3 only

Answer: B

Notes:

Explanation –

- ❖ Statement 1 and 3 are incorrect. A critical mineral is a metallic or non-metallic element that has two characteristics: It is essential for the functioning of modern technologies, economies or national security and there is a risk that its supply chains could be disrupted. Australia is the second-largest producer of cobalt and is the fourth-largest producer of rare earth minerals in the world.
- ❖ Statement 2 is correct. Rare earth elements are critical minerals which are used for making magnets and silicon.

